

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Kimihiro SAITO, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/714,866

GAU: 2627

FILED: November 18, 2003

EXAMINER: HALEY, J.

FOR: OPTICAL PICKUP DEVICE, RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND GAP DETECTION METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

- The applicant(s) wish to make of record the reference(s) cited in the attached European Search Report and listed on the attached form PTO-1449. U.S. Reference No. 6,298,026 was previously cited on the PTO-892 in the Notice of Allowance. Copies of the listed reference(s) are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language reference(s).
- Online credit card payment is being made in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

- Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s), published application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. In accordance with the waiver of 37 CFR 1.98 dated September 21, 2004, copies of the cited pending applications are not provided. Cited published and/or issued patents, if any, are listed on the attached PTO form 1449.
- Online credit card payment is being made in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

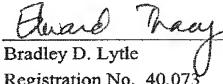
- Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

- Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030.

Respectfully submitted,

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Form PTO 1449 (Modified)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 245420US6	SERIAL NO. 10/714,866	
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT		Kimihiro SAITO, et al.		
		FILING DATE		GROUP		
		November 18, 2003		2627		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS
AA						
AB						
AC						
AO						
AE						
AF						
AG						
AH						
AI						
AJ						
AK						
AL						
AM						
AN						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION	
AO	WO 99/41566	08/19/1999	WIPO		YES	NO
AP	EP 1 083 553 A2	03/14/2001	Europe			X
AQ	EP 1 031 976 A2	08/30/2000	Europe			X
AR						
AS						
AT						
AU						
AV						
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)						
	AW					
	AX					
	AY					
	AZ				<input type="checkbox"/> Additional References sheet(s) attached	
Examiner					Date Considered	
*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.						